

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05617 140851Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /029 W
-----007960 150552Z /10
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8369

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJ: UN ADMINISTRATION: SALARIES OF UN OFFICIALS

REF: (A) STATE 85125, (B) GENEVA 3912

1. MISSION OFFICERS ARE REGULARLY PROVIDED WITH EVIDENCE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AND WITHIN GENEVA-LOCATED INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE SUBJECT IMPACTS UPON PERSONAL WELL-BEING. THE WIDE DISTRIBUTION IN GENEVA OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE AND ITS FRONT PAGE TREATMENT OF UN REMUNERATION PRACTICES MAKES IT LIKELY THAT EVEN THE MOST JUNIOR UN EMPLOYEE IS AWARE OF THE CRITICISM. ARTICLES APPEARING IN US NEWSPAPERS WILL NOT HAVE RECEIVED SUCH WIDE CIRCULATION BUT MANAGEMENT-LEVEL OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THEM.

2. IN ORDER NOT TO DILUTE THE FORCE OF THIS PRESS ATTENTION BY SEEMING TO RETURN THE DIALOGUE TO THE LESS NOTICEABLE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SECRETARIATS AND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, MISSION OFFICERS HAVE NOT POUNDED IN THESE PRESS ARTICLES. IT SEEMS BETTER PSYCHOLOGY AND GOOD STRATEGY NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE OBJECTIVE IMPACT THE PRESS CAN DELIVER FROM ITS MORE NEUTRAL POSITION. AS OPPORTUNITIES HAVE ARISEN, HOWEVER,
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MISSION OFFICERS HAVE REFERRED TO THESE ARTICLES, AND ARE IN NO DOUBT THAT THE POINT OF THE ARTICLES HAS NOT BEEN MISSED.

3. COMMENT: A VERY IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE PROBLEM TO BE CONTENDED WITH SO FAR AS THE SALARIES OF GENEVA-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IS CONCERNED IS THAT A COMMON

SYSTEM APPROACH RELIEVES THEIR SECRETARIATS, AT LEAST
IN CONSIDERABLE DEGREE, FROM FEELING AS RESPONSIBLE AS
THEY MIGHT ABOUT DECISIONS WHICH THEY CAN POINT TO AS
HAVING BEEN MADE IN NEW YORK AND CONCURRED IN THERE
BY GOVERNMENTS. WE ASSUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT
RECOGNIZES, TOO, THAT THE HIGHEST SALARIES DRAMATIZED
IN THE PRESS ACCOUNTS ARE THOSE WHICH ARE OUTSIDE THE
SCALE, DERIVING FROM CONTRACTUAL AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS
EXECUTED BY GOVERNING BODIES IN WHICH THE US AND OTHER
MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS GENERALLY PARTICIPATE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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